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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,542	10/09/2003	Susie J. Wee	200315123-1	8755

22879 7590 06/27/2005

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EXAMINER

BAUTISTA, XIOMARA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,542

Applicant(s)

WEE ET AL.

Examiner

X L Bautista

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: "locations the individuals" (line 3) should be changed to --locations of the individuals--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims I-6, 8-27, 29-39 and 41-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ludwig et al* (US 5,867,654).

Claims I, 22 and 34:

Ludwig discloses a multimedia collaboration system and method (system for communication) having a plurality of rich media environments (sensing components: microphones, audio processing techniques, cameras, keyboard, mouse, touchscreen, etc.) and rendering components (visual displays, audio speakers, etc.), (col. I, lines 19-45; col. 2, lines I-II, 34-36, 47-40, 57-67; col. 3, lines I-8; col. 15, lines II-33). Ludwig teaches detection of audio and video signals (detecting multiple interactions), detection of spoken words, gestures, etc. among multiple individuals and maintains an interest thread for all communication interactions (col. II, lines 43-62; col. 12, lines 55-67; col. 13, lines I-5); and communication provider for capturing a set of media data from the sensing components and that combines

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and communicates the captured media data to the rendering components (col. 12, lines 55-65; col. 18, lines 35-67; col. 19, lines 1-16, 45-67; col. 20, lines 13-63; col. 21, lines 39-67; col. 32, lines 30-67).

Ludwig teaches computer-readable storage media having code that when executed provides communication among multiple media environments (col. 2, lines 57-65).

Claims 2, 23 and 35:

Ludwig teaches selecting subset of the sensing and rendering components for use for different activities (col. 11, lines 43-62; col. 12, lines 55-65).

Claims 3, 24 and 36:

Ludwig teaches multiple activities including speech (col. 1, lines 20-31; col. 15, lines 22-25).

Claims 4, 25 and 37:

Ludwig teaches multiple activities including gestures (col. 1, lines 23-35; col. 2, lines 57-67; col. 15, lines 22-25).

Claims 5, 18-20, 26 and 38:

See claim 1. Ludwig teaches multiple activities including movements by the individuals (col. 1, lines 23-45; col. 2, lines 57-67; col. 15, lines 22-25).

Claims 6, 27 and 39:

Ludwig teaches multiple activities including location of the individuals (col. 9, lines 1-11; col. 19, lines 45-67).

Claims 8, 29 and 41:

See claim 1. Ludwig teaches storing combined media data to provide a history of corresponding communication interaction (col. 3, lines 6-8; col. 12, lines 55-65).

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 30, 31, 42 and 43:

See claim 8. Ludwig teaches communication interactions pertaining to artifacts of the rich media environments, wherein the artifacts (individuals, paper, whiteboard, etc.) change over time (figs. I, 18A, 18B; col. I, lines 20-45; col. 3, lines 1-8; col. 15, lines 11-33).

Claim 11:

Ludwig teaches a desktop teleconferencing having real-time audio and/or video teleconferencing as well as data conferencing including snapshot sharing, application sharing, shared whiteboard, etc. (col. 2, lines 66-67; col. 3, lines 1-8; col. 19, lines 7-16; col. 27, lines 38-44; col. 36, lines 7-17).

Claims 14, 15, 32, 33, 44, and 45:

Ludwig teaches detection of multiple activities (audio, video, etc.) and creating an interest area for each detected activity (col. I, lines 19-45; col. 11, lines 43-62; col. 12, lines 55-65; col. 15, lines 11-33).

Claim 16, 17, 21:

See claim 9. Ludwig teaches two or more individuals at remote locations and in possession of a remote sensing and rendering component (fig. I; col. 11, lines 43-62; col. 12, lines 55-65; col. 15, lines 11-32; col. 35, line 20-col. 36, line 65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 28 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ludwig and Platzker et al* (US 6,388,654 B1).

Claim 7, 28 and 40:

Ludwig does not teach refining the media data obtained from the sensor components. However, Platzker discloses a method and system for communication having image sensors to capture images, capture engine, real-time detector, capture processor, etc. (abstract; col. 9, lines 17-67; col. 10, lines 1-5, 24-26; col. 11, lines 13-47; col. 12, lines 35-62). Platzker teaches that the media data obtained from sensors is refined (col. 3, lines 1-11, 17-51; col. 4, lines 20-23, 31-42; col. 9, lines 45-67; col. 12, lines 58-60; col. 13, lines 11-13; col. 16, lines 54-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ludwig's multimedia collaboration system to include Platzker's teaching of refining sensed media data because as Platzker says, removing non-informational content promotes optimized storage and transmission of only meaningful data.

Conclusion

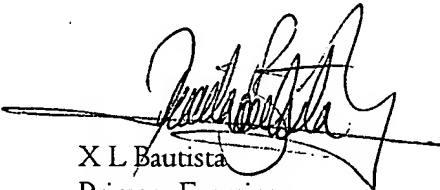
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to X L Bautista whose telephone number is (571) 272-4132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



X L Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlB

June 21, 2005